NUMB. XLIV.

The GUARDIAN.

——Hæc Iter Elyſium nobis. Virg.

Friday, May 1. 1713.

I Have frequently obſerved in the Walks belonging to all the Inns of Court, a Sett of old Fellows who appear to be Humouriſts, and wrapped up in themſelves; but have long been at a loſs when I have ſeen them Smile, and name my Name as I paſſed by, and ſay old *Ironſide* wears well. I am a meer Boy to ſome of them who frequent *Gray's-Inn*, but am not a little pleaſed to find they are even with the World, and return upon it its Neglect towards them, which is all the Defence we old Fellows have againſt the Petulancy of young People. I am very glad to obſerve, that theſe Sages of this Peripatetick Sect ſtudy Tranquility and Indolence of Body and Mind, in the Neighbourhood of ſo much Contention as is carried on among the Students of *Littleton*. The following Letter gives us ſome light into the Manners and Maxims of theſe Philoſophers.

To the GUARDIAN.

SIR,

'AS the Depredations of Time and Fortune 'have been lamented in all Ages, thoſe 'Perſons who have reſiſted and diſputed the Ty'ranny of either of theſe, have employed the ſub'limeſt Speculations of the Writers in all Lan'guages. As theſe deceaſed Hero's have had their 'Places judiciouſly aſſigned them already in the 'Temple of Fame, I would Immortalize ſome Per'ſons now alive, who to me are greater Objects of 'Envy, both as their Bravery is exerciſed with the 'utmoſt Tranquility and Pleaſure to themſelves, 'and as they are ſubſtantially Happy on this ſide the 'Grave, in oppoſition to all the *Greek* and *Latin* 'Scraps to the contrary.

'As therefore I am naturally ſubject to cruel In'roads from the Spleen, as I affirm all Evil to come 'from the *Eaſt*, as I am the Weather-glaſs of every 'Company I come into, I ſometimes, according to '*Shakeſpear*,

Sit like my Grandſire cut in Alablaſter,
Sleep whilſt I wake, and creep into the Jaundice
By being peeviſh——

'I would furniſh out a Table of Merry Fame, 'in envious Admiration of thoſe Jovial Blades, who 'diſappoint the Strokes of Age and Fortune with 'the ſame Gaiety of Soul, as when thro' Youth or 'Affluence they were in their Prime for Fancy, 'Frblick and Atchievement. There are, you may 'obſerve, in all Publick Walks, Perſons, who by a 'ſingular Shabbineſs of their Attire, make a very 'ridiculous Appearance in the Opinion of the Men 'of Dreſs. They are very ſullen and involved, 'and appear in ſuch a State of Diſtreſs and Tribu'lation, as to be thought Inconſolable. They are 'generally of that Complexion which was in Faſhi'on during the pleaſurable Reign of *Charles* the Se'cond. Some of them, indeed, are of a lighter 'Brown, whoſe Fortunes fell with that of King '*James*. Now theſe, who are the Jeſt of ſuch as 'take themſelves, and the World uſually takes, to 'be in Proſperity, are the very Perſons whoſe Hap'pineſs, were it underſtood, would be looked upon 'with Burning Envy. I fell into the Diſcovery of 'them in the following manner: One Day laſt Sum'mer, being particularly under the Dominion of the 'Spleen, I reſolved to ſooth my Melancholy in the 'Company of ſuch, whoſe Appearance promiſed a 'full Return of any Complaints I could poſſibly ut'ter. Living near *Grays-Inn* Walks I went thi'ther in ſearch of the Perſons above deſcribed, and 'found ſome of them ſeated upon a Bench, where, 'as *Milton* ſings,

——the unpeirc'd Shade
Imbrown'd their Noontide Bow'r.

'I ſqueezed in among them, and they did not 'only receive my Moanings with ſingular Huma'nity, but gave me all poſſible Encouragement to 'inlarge them. If the Blackneſs of my Spleen raiſed 'any imaginary Diſtemper of Body, ſome one of 'them immediately ſympathiſed with me. If I 'ſpoke of any Diſappointment in my Fortune, ano'ther of them would abate my Sorrowing by re'counting to me his own Defeat upon the very 'ſame Circumſtances. If I touched upon over'looked Merit, the whole Aſſembly ſeemed to con'dole with me very feelingly upon that Particular. 'In ſhort, I could not make my ſelf ſo calamitous 'in Mind, Body or Circumſtances, but ſome one 'of them was upon a Level with me. When I 'had wound up my Diſcourſe, and was ripe for 'their intended Raillery, at firſt they crown'd my 'Narration with ſeveral piteous Sighs and Groans, 'but after a ſhort Pauſe, and a Signal given for the 'Onſet, they burſt out into a moſt incomprehenſi'ble Fit of Laughter. You may be ſure I was no'tably out of Countenance, which gave occaſion to 'a ſecond Exploſion of the ſame Mirth. What 'troubled me moſt was, that their Figure, Age, and 'ſhort Swords, preſerved them from any Imputation 'of Cowardiſe upon refuſal of Battel, and their 'Number from Inſult. I had now no other way 'to be upon good Terms with them, but deſiring 'I might be admitted into this Fraternity. This 'was at firſt vigorouſly oppoſed, it being objected 'to me, that I affected too much the appearance of 'an happy Man, to be received into a Society ſo 'proud of appearing the moſt afflicted. However, 'as I only ſeemed to be what they really were, I 'am admitted by way of Triumph upon Probation 'for a Year; and if within that Time it ſhall be 'poſſible for them to infuſe any of their Gaiety in'to me, I can, at *Monmouth-ſtreet*, upon mighty 'eaſie Terms, purchaſe the Robes neceſſary for my 'Inſtalment into this Order; and when they have 'made me as happy, ſhall be willing to appear as 'miſerable, as any of this Aſſembly. I confeſs I have 'ever ſince been aſhamed, that I ſhould once take 'that Place to be Sacred to the Diſconſolate, which 'I now muſt affirm to be the only *Elyſium* on this 'ſide the *Styx*; and that ever I ſhould look upon 'thoſe Perſonages as lively Inſtances of the Outrage 'of Time and Fortune, who diſallow their Empire 'with